

1018-6.6
Soviet Cover Attachment

1. Subject of basic dispatch is Mr. Gustav Hilger, one of the old Russian hands in the German Foreign Office who served in the German Embassy in Moscow for a number of years before World War II. At the end of that war he joined the U.S.I.R.O. organization. The Russian Government made strenuous efforts to have him extradited as a war criminal. The U.S. Government not only refused those demands but eventually helped Mrs. Hilger, her daughter, and the daughter's children to escape to the West.

2. Somewhat later Hilger was brought to the U.S. as a special consultant on KGB/GRU matters to NSC/NCS and MACV/SAC. He never gained any information on operational matters or operational potentials in that capacity but simply prepared re-written studies on subjects of interest to those agencies.

3. He returned to Germany about 1953 and again occupied a prominent position in the German Foreign Office. In the latter position he was considered by some as the personal advisor to the Chancellor on Soviet affairs; however, our records show that he informed our officers in Bonn in 1955 that he was opposed to the Chancellor's policy regarding re-establishment of German/Soviet diplomatic relations, at least to the manner in which that step was accomplished.

4. From 1953 to 1956 [] maintained a casual relationship with Hilger but Hilger was not communicative on official matters except in the case of the Chancellor's visit to Moscow. On Sept. 30, 1956 Hilger, having reached the age of 70, retired from his official position and, as we understand it, plans to spend his declining years in Bonn.

5. Hilger is said to be fond of the U.S. and the U.S. way of life and loves to recall with nostalgia the good old days when he lived with Mrs. Hilger in the U.S. When he first returned to Germany he was most unhappy with the reduction in his standard of living consequent with his change of employment. He counts among his personal friends a large number of old Russian hands and other diplomats, including the United States' George Keenan and Robert Murphy. He frequently sees many of his old friends when they pass through Bonn and his advice is sought by many latter day Russian experts in the German Foreign Office. It occurred to us that that circle of friends could be of some value to the Bonn Station.

27 January 1957

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